

WELCOME TO 2026!

Dear Residents

As we enter the New Year, your newly elected volunteer GCRA Committee would like to extend our good wishes to everyone for a happy and successful year ahead!

Your Committee comprises the following residents, elected at the November AGM, draft Minutes of which are on our website:



Above are the newly elected office bearers, from left to right - Doreen Boyle - Secretary, Jane Norie - Joint Treasurer, Colin Dempster - Chairman and Lynsey Barrow - Joint Treasurer. Ordinary members are Carol Ann Notman, Brenda Pearson and Nik Taylor.

Together we will endeavour to give our best in achieving the aims of the GCRA as set out in our Constitution, thereby ensuring that all residents continue to enjoy the amenity of our estate now and into the future. The Committee will work on your behalf to maintain the fabric of the estate, ensuring best practice relating to the care and maintenance of the grounds and common areas, including the riverbank. We hope to encourage the development of social activity amongst the residents utilising the available common spaces, particularly around recognised holiday periods such as Easter, etc. The quarterly newsletter, which has been well received since first published, our website www.glenoglecourt.com and our new Notice Board in Liddesdale Place will carry information on any upcoming events.

We look forward to ensuring as far as possible that the GCRA delivers an enjoyable, safe, inclusive and interesting environment for all. This is surely achievable, especially if all residents pitch in with ideas and assistance and make it happen. All Committee members are contractable by email: secretary.gcra@hotmail.com.

THE STOCKBRIDGE COLONIES

We love our Glenogle Court but how much do we know about our neighbours, the Stockbridge Colonies, one of the most interesting housing developments in Edinburgh. We've all heard about the development of the wonderful 18th century New Town houses for the rich and famous, but where did the many migrants and rural workers who flocked to this growing town during 'industrialisation' live? In appalling, dirty and unsanitary rooms in old town tenements which collapsed and went on fire. Following widespread campaigning for better housing for workers, the Improvements Act was passed in 1867.



Between 1850-51 the first 'model dwellings' colony style housing for workers was built by the Pilrig Model Dwellings Company and a second colony was built at Rosebank Cottages based on the Pilrig model.

Then came the interesting history of the Stockbridge development which started in 1861 when a group of 1,200 stonemasons and joiners found themselves locked out of their building sites over a dispute about working hours which lasted for 3 months. Seven of them decided to form the Edinburgh Co-operative Building Company Ltd (ECBC), one of Scotland's earliest limited liability companies, a housing association, their co-operative spirit symbolised by a beehive motif. The foundation stone was laid by Rev. James Begg, a Free Church Minister who had campaigned to improve conditions for workers. This was at Glenogle Park in October 1861 with a plan for 11 terraces based on the Rosebank prototype and mostly completed by 1872.

THE STOCKBRIDGE COLONIES

Houses built by workers for the workers, they could invest in ECBC £1 shares. They could buy the houses for between £100 and £130 each and these could be paid for over a number of years at a pound a month using a deposit and loan scheme with title deeds as security, essentially an early form of mortgage. making home ownership for the artisans and skilled workers affordable for the first time. Interestingly, women could invest with the same rights as men!



On the end wall of each terrace above the window, one can still see, engraved in the stonework, the emblems of the tradesmen that built and often lived in these terraces, the stonemasons, carpenters, metal workers, etc.

By 1911, 2000 houses had been built over 10 different sites in Edinburgh. The distinctive design was clever and economic, two houses, one on top of the other, thus sharing the cost of a roof and foundation, windows back and front, allowing in the light and ventilation and an outside entrance to the upper house, typical of early Scottish architecture. This gave each house its own front door and garden, vastly preferable to tenement living. The blocks each have their own name, thus, walking down the road between each block, the houses on each side have different names, and all one side have upper entrances and all the other side lower entrances! The design maybe resulted in a certain amount of overlooking and gossiping but others suggest that this has led to a sense of identity and community spirit, perhaps unique in Edinburgh!

FOOD WASTE *FROM EGG SHELLS TO ELECTRICITY!*

Our food waste is collected weekly but what happens to it after that?

So, it goes to the Biogen plant at Millerhill, Dalkeith where it is converted into biogas. This then goes into huge gas ovens to be turned into electricity for the national grid. What is left is a valuable fertiliser.

Some food waste is obvious - vegetable peelings, outside leaves, apple cores, banana skins, that spoonful of leftover baked beans and the soft tomato from the bottom of the fridge!

But waste also includes any type of cooked or uncooked meat, dairy products and baked foods. Think the scraps from saucepans and plates, bacon rind, that last bit of crust from the Saturday night pizza, the leftover curry sauce, the last teaspoon of jam and squeeze of ketchup. Yes, even tea bags and egg shells.

So pop your waste in the food bin in a paper or compostable bag and make electricity!



FOREVER EDINBURGH

Up to date information about events, activities and city attractions can be found on the Edinburgh Council site.

Best of all, the monthly "Resident Rewards" scheme gives money off selected food and drink around the city, cheaper days out and exclusive events from city business. All you need to do is register giving your EH postcode.

Let us have your comments, opinions and any ideas for future newsletters Our contact details are below.

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